



Parents will leave the car at home and walk with their children to athletic events held on the sports fields in the East Park. Runners and walkers will navigate the network of paths in the East and West Park, appreciating how the connection to the Northern Delaware Greenway expands their recreational opportunities.



The path network through the Blue Ball Properties will provide a perfect mix of pedestrian opportunities that will not only draw local residents to its facilities but will become a regional destination. It will also allow walkers, joggers and cyclists to linger at several of the area's historic attractions, such as the Weldin Ruins. At various points along the path system park-goers will be able to stop, rest and enjoy the park. These areas will provide informational kiosks with orientation maps and other park information.



(below) View of Barn Before Renovations.



Construction in progress.

#### Dairy Barn

The Blue Ball Dairy Barn is the primary focus of activities in the West Park with its strong visual presence along US Route 202 and with primary access from the West Park Drive. The West Park will reinforce the agricultural history of the land through the protection and restoration of the existing open spaces and the Blue Ball Dairy Barn, which will provide residents with community meeting facilities.



#### Weldin Ruins

The ruins remain in the existing wooded area north of the Dairy Barn. The woods will be selectively cleared to expose the ruins and "retrieve" this historic built environment from the vegetation that has hidden it for years. The walls will be stabilized to indicate the location of the historic buildings and signage; maps and story boards will tell the history of the site. Park paths will link the park elements.



#### Washington Inaugural Button & Lincoln Campaign Pin Found At Weldin Ruins

Two rare pieces of presidential memorabilia were recently uncovered during the Blue Ball Properties pre-construction archaeological dig at Weldin farm house off Faulk Road. The first - a brass button bearing the initials of George Washington and of the original 12 Colonies - was issued to commemorate Washington's 1789 inauguration. The other find - a gilded tin campaign pin from the 1864 contest between Abraham Lincoln and George McClellan - is also an exciting discovery. Unfortunately, the Lincoln image on the pin has deteriorated beyond recognition. Both were found in the farm's kitchen area.



The East Coast Greenway will soon be one state closer to completion, as Delaware continues work on its Northern Delaware Greenway, a network of paths located just north of the City of Wilmington.

Created as part of the Blue Ball Properties Transportation Improvements Project, the connection reflects the combined efforts of Delaware's Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and the Economic Development Office. The project has also incorporated participation from over 125 local environmentalists, historic preservationists, residents, politicians, and business leaders.

The Blue Ball Properties area includes a mix of residential, commercial, recreational, and institutional land uses. Creating a new system of paths and greenways to connect these lands has been a high priority for planners and residents from the outset. The end result: a plan that preserves open space, meets community members recreation needs, and reuses historic structures in the area.

All paths will be easily accessible by residents of nearby neighborhoods and will link existing bike/ped facilities to the Northern Delaware Greenway, slated to be designated as part of the East Coast Greenway in the very near future.

Street-level entries at all access points will encourage usage by wheelchair athletes and other individuals with disabilities, and landscaping will provide an aesthetically appealing atmosphere for Greenway users as well as privacy for adjacent property owners.

The new trail network will meet many different needs of area residents. Parents will be able to walk with their children to athletic events. Commuters from Wilmington will be able to bike to work.

#### Public-Private Partnership Extends Greenway in Delaware

*Continued from previous page*

And nearby pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca will connect its campus to the path network for the benefit of its employees. One notable feature accessible by the path network is a 27,000-square-foot "Can-Do, Boundless Playground" in the East Park recreational area. The playground, one the only 60 in the nation, will be completed this year and will allow all children to play side by side, regardless of ability level.

Seventy percent of the facility will be accessible to children with disabilities without their having to leave their support equipment. Also a result of a public-private endeavor, the fund raising efforts for this remarkable playground are being undertaken by the local Rotary Clubs of Wilmington, while the actual construction is an element of the Blue Ball Properties Master Plan.

And, in a move that will benefit all users of the path network, Delaware Greenways, a statewide nonprofit created to link existing parkland parcels together to form a network of paths, will be relocating its headquarters to an historic building that is part of the development.

According to Tim Plemmons, executive director of Delaware Greenways, the move will allow the organization to better reach out to the people using the facilities. Along with its offices, the group will staff an information center to provide maps and brochures of Delaware and the East Coast Greenway.

Construction of the Alapocas Woods element of the Greenway was completed in the fall of 2003. Additional elements of the path network, such as the playground, will be finished this year, with full completion scheduled for 2007.

